

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 16, 2014

Special Edition

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This special edition of Connections provides employees information on Constitutional Amendment 7 and our work to present the regional priorities list for public review. As MoDOT employees, it is our job to share this list and gather public feedback. You need to check out this list too, so you can fully understand the impact these projects would have for the state.

Regardless of what happens on Aug. 5, our direction has not changed - take care of roads and bridges the best we can with what we have, keep our customers and ourselves safe and provide outstanding customer service.

Please read all the information provided, stay informed, and watch for new updates as they become available.

10-Year Project List Captures Transportation Needs Throughout Missouri

Draft Projects and Improvements List

On June 13, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission released a draft list of the transportation projects and improvements that could improve safety, create jobs and boost Missouri's economy for the next ten years. Local planning agencies and transportation partners have been working with the Commission and the Missouri Department of Transportation to develop the list, which was required as part of the provisions of Constitutional Amendment 7.

To download the entire statewide project list, click here - [Project List](#)

To see lists by district, and maps that show where the projects are located, click on map below:



Public Comment Period

The Commission established a public comment period of June 13 – July 3 so Missourians can review the draft list and provide feedback. Public meetings have been scheduled in every region of the state as MoDOT, and the project lists and maps are displayed in every district office.

After the public comment period ends, all public input will be reviewed and the Commission will approve a final version of the project list at their July 9 meeting.

What Happens Next

After the public comment period ends, MoDOT will still be available to meet with local groups and organizations to explain the projects and improvements included on the list. Missourians will head to the polls on August 5 to determine the fate of Amendment 7.

"Talk About What You Know"
Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger Discusses How MoDOT Employees Can Answer Questions about Amendment



Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger talks about Amendment 7 and what it means to Missouri. Click on the video to listen.

Three Things You Can Tell Your Neighbor

In the June 5 edition of Connections, we shared information to help you educate your neighbors, family and friends on Constitutional

Amendment 7, the ballot initiative that will designate a ¾ cent sales tax to fund transportation. You may have many opportunities between now and the Aug. 5 election to share what you know with those around you.

Because this information is so important, we wanted to share it again.

While it is not our job to advocate for the amendment, or tell people how to vote, we do have a responsibility to help people understand the need for additional transportation funding and the benefits it provides.

Here's what you need to know about [Constitutional Amendment 7](#):

- It's a ¾-cent sales tax (not charged on food, prescription medicine or gasoline).
- The tax is temporary, for 10 years.
- It generates about \$540 million per year.
- It can be used for any transportation purpose.
- No tolls or fuel tax increase can take place during the 10-year period.

What Role Can Employees Play?

Employees need to know the basics listed above, and be willing to help the people you come in contact with understand it. As the department prepares to share the project list required by the amendment, it's our job to show how that list will impact the safety of Missourians, our infrastructure and the economy of the state.

Three Things You Can Tell Your Neighbor

1. Everyone benefits from transportation.
2. Our roads and bridges are deteriorating. We can't keep up with the needs.
3. When we make improvement to our roads and bridges we save lives with the things we do.

The best way to be prepared is to be informed. Watch for updates in Connections and MoDOT Now, and ask your supervisor if you have questions.

How Amendment 7 Could Affect Missouri's Transportation Funding



Here's some things every employee should know about transportation funding in Missouri and Amendment 7. Click on the video to find out.

Frequently Asked Questions

While we cannot advocate for any particular ballot measure or funding solution, it is MoDOT's responsibility as a transportation expert to educate our customers about the value of transportation improvements and their role in improving safety, creating jobs and providing for the prosperity of the state's economy.

Q. How does money generated by the ¾-cent sales tax differ from the money MoDOT receives from fuel taxes, license fees and sales tax on motor vehicles? Will it be used differently?

A. *The money generated by the temporary sales tax for transportation may be used for ANY transportation purpose, whereas money that comes from fuel taxes, license fees and the existing sales tax on motor vehicles may only be used on roads and bridges, per the Missouri Constitution.*

Q. Will passage of this amendment solve the problem of not being able to match federal funds in 2020?

A. *Yes, that is one of the most critical aspects of this funding initiative.*

Q. Will the sales tax be charged on all purchases?

A. *No. The ¾ of a cent will not be charged on medicine, groceries or gasoline. This follows the exemptions in*

Missouri’s existing tax code.

Q. How much will it cost me?
A. You will pay an additional 15 cents for every \$20 you spend. For instance, a \$50 jacket will cost you an additional 38 cents. However, your purchases of medicine, groceries and motor fuel will not be charged the additional sales tax.

Q. How do we balance getting work out there quickly with delivering the total package over 10 years? What comes first?
A. The answer will depend on what projects emerge from the project prioritization process in each region. Certainly, Missourians will expect to see their tax dollars at work as quickly as possible. We will not see proceeds from the temporary sales tax for transportation until sometime in the spring of 2015, and because the desire will be to spend as much of this new revenue as possible on a “pay-as-you-go” basis, we will have to carefully develop a project sequence that takes into account projects that have already cleared the environmental process, those that can deliver immediate benefits, etc., and how they can be delivered with a 10-year cash flow.

Q. How will we get all this work ready to go with a reduced staff?
All program delivery work needed that is beyond the capacity of our current staff will be handled by consultants.

Q. Will Missourians support a 3/4-cent ballot issue, and what will happen if they don’t? Will we really close some bridges rather than fix them?
A. If it does not pass, it is inevitable that the condition of our system will deteriorate over time, but we will continue to make the best of whatever dollars we have to take care of the system. It takes \$485 million per year to maintain the condition of our system as it is today. By 2017 our construction budget will fall to \$325 million. That means tough choices will need to be made, whether that’s closing bridges or tolerating potholes and deteriorating pavements.



Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

